

Claims:

1. A mechanical sweeper, comprising:
 - a front housing;
 - a rotating brush secured to the front housing having tangentially extending bristles adapted to engage a surface at an oblique angle;
 - a frame secured to a lower portion of the front housing;
 - a height adjustment column rising from the rear of the frame;
 - and
 - a dirt receptacle removably positional on an upper surface of the frame, wherein:
 - the front housing and column serve to orient the dirt receptacle in a position relative to the frame.
2. The mechanical sweeper of claim 1, further comprising a notch defined in the rear of the dirt receptacle adapted to partially extend around the column.
3. The mechanical sweeper of claim 1, further comprising an adjustable wheel assembly positioned within the column.
4. The mechanical sweeper of claim 3, the adjustable wheel assembly further comprising a rotary knob on top of the column.
5. The mechanical sweeper of claim 4, further comprising a cam which moves the adjustment wheel up and down relative to the frame as the knob is rotated.
6. The mechanical sweeper of claim 3, wherein moving the adjustment wheel downwardly relative to the frame increases the force of the brush on the surface.

7. The mechanical sweeper of claim 3, wherein moving the adjustment wheel upwardly relative to the frame decreases the force of the brush on the surface.

8. The mechanical sweeper of claim 1, further comprising a latch positioned on the upper portion of the dirt receptacle.

9. The mechanical sweeper of claim 8, wherein the latch, column and frame cooperate to position the dirt receptacle relative to the front housing.

10. The mechanical sweeper of claim 8, wherein the latch moves in a linear path to engage a catch defined in the upper portion of the front housing.

11. A mechanical sweeper, comprising:
a front housing;
a first and a second rotating brush secured to the front housing each having tangentially extending bristles adapted to engage a surface at an oblique angle;
a dirt scoop positioned in the upper housing proximate to the point at the bristles of the first brush contact the bristles of the second brush;
a frame secured to a lower portion of the front housing;
a column rising from the rear of the frame; and
a dirt receptacle removably positional on an upper surface of the frame and adapted to receive dirt from the dirt scoop when placed in an operational position, wherein:
the front housing and column serve to orient the dirt receptacle in the operational position.

12. The mechanical sweeper of claim 11, further comprising a notch defined in the rear of the dirt receptacle adapted to partially extend around the column.

13. The mechanical sweeper of claim 11, further comprising an adjustable wheel assembly positioned within the column.

14. The mechanical sweeper of claim 13, the adjustable wheel assembly further comprising a rotary knob on top of the column.

15. The mechanical sweeper of claim 14, further comprising a cam assembly which moves the adjustment wheel up and down relative to the frame as the knob is rotated.

16. The mechanical sweeper of claim 13, wherein:
moving the adjustment wheel downwardly relative to the frame increases the force of the first brush on the surface, and
moving the adjustment wheel downwardly relative to the frame increases the force of the second brush on the surface.

17. The mechanical sweeper of claim 13, wherein:
moving the adjustment wheel upwardly relative to the frame decreases the force of the first brush on the surface, and
moving the adjustment wheel upwardly relative to the frame decreases the force of the second brush on the surface.

18. The mechanical sweeper of claim 11, further comprising a latch positioned on the upper portion of the dirt receptacle.

19. The mechanical sweeper of claim 18, wherein the latch, column and frame cooperate to position the dirt receptacle relative to the scoop.

20. The mechanical sweeper of claim 8, wherein the latch moves in a linear path to engage a catch defined in the upper portion above the scoop.